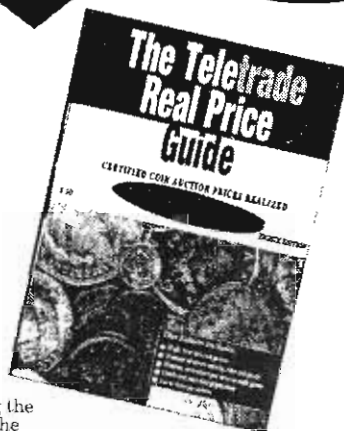


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Longacre's Ledger

Vol. 7, No. 4

October - December 1997



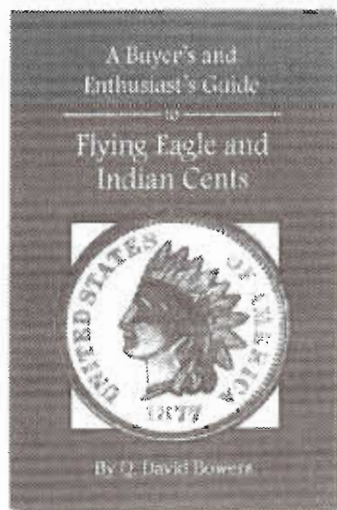
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Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society

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October - December 1997

LONGACRE'S LEDGER

Official Publication of the
FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Vol. 7, No.4

October - December 1997

FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT COLLECTORS SOCIETY

The purpose of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent
Collectors Society is to promote the study and
collection of Longacre's design of small cents.

OFFICERS

President Larry R. Steve
Vice President..... Chris Pilliod
Secretary Xan Chamberlain
Treasurer Charles Jones

State Representatives

Page 18

ON THE COVER...

1869 Indian Cent

The 1869/69 S-3 variety started out as an overdate, 1869/8. In the 1970s, it was observed by authenticators at ANACS that the digit punches for the two years are distinctly different, especially in the 1s. Because of this, it was delisted as an overdate and is considered just an average repunched date. Today some dealers wanting to promote the "overdate" still refer to the variety as the 1869/8. This coin is a PCGS graded MS-66 RD, Ex Alan Epstein Collection.

(photo by Rick Snow)

Articles, opinions and comments appearing in this Journal reflect the views of their author and may or may not agree with those of the Society.

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Send comments, inquiries, and article submissions to Deborah Wiles, Longacre's Ledger Editor, 9017 Topperwind Ct., Fort Worth, Texas 76134.

LONGACRE'S LEDGER

Table of Contents

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1997

President's Letter.....	4
Announcements	6
State Representatives.....	18
Back Issues Order Form	32

INDIAN HEAD HEARTBREAK

by Ed Morris8

SOMETHING NEW!

by Richard Snow9

LATE DATE INDIAN CENT VARIETIES

by Douglas W. Hill11

HOW MANY ARE THERE, ANYWAY?

by Jerry Wysong12

CHRIS PILLIOD WINS THE ANA HEATH AWARD

THE F.IND.ERS™ REPORT

by Larry Steve.....21

CAUSES OF MISPLACED DATES

by Kevin Flynn.....22

ADVERTISING RATES & POLICY

CLASSIFIED ADS31

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Larry Steve, President



There are many important announcements in this issue. Please take the time to read them.

The ANA's annual Anniversary Convention is now behind us. As with every year, the Fly-In Club holds our annual meeting in conjunction with this convention. This affords us the opportunity to meet with other Club members, present new finds, discuss interesting topics, answer any questions, make decisions regarding our Club's activities, and generally attend to the business of running a Club. While there are some formalities that need to be addressed at each of these meetings (introductions, reports, announcements, presentations, etc.), my personal style is to maintain an open and informal atmosphere. This year's meeting was most enjoyable and productive.

The meeting opened with the introduction of myself, chairing the meeting as President, and Chris Pilliod as Vice President. I then asked for each person around the room to introduce themselves to the other attendees, with special recognition of Rick Snow as Past President, Bill Walker as Chairman of the State Representatives, and Jon Lerner as Marketing Rep. I thanked Jon for his efforts to secure two new advertisers in the *Ledger*: ANACS and Teletrade.

A brief report on the Constitution and By-Laws was given, stating that we now have a draft working copy. I made an announcement that Chris was the recipient of the ANA's Heath Literary Award, and that we had a copy of the official notification letter for those who were interested in seeing it after the meeting. I then mentioned that as a member of the Club, each member receives four issues of *Longacre's Ledger*, our official publication. Further mentioned was our annual membership voting procedure for "Best Article of the Year." With that, I announced that Rick was the recipient of the 1996 Jim Johnson award and presented him with a plaque.

Another announcement that was made referred to our free classified policy. A question was raised with respect to mail bid advertising. I stated that one of our objectives was to eventually have an annual Club-sponsored auction, similar to other clubs. I opened the floor to discussions on the matter about permitting mail bid advertising, and then asked for a vote from all members in attendance. The measure passed by unanimous consent. If you have any comments or questions on this matter, please submit them as a Letter to the Editor for publication.

Our Club's attribution file is a die variety listing that begins with and encompasses the earlier work of Rick Snow's book (with major contribution from myself and Chris), combined with the individual research and book written by myself with Kevin Flynn, and further combined with the die variety listing compiled by Chris as Club Attributer for six years. In addition, and more recently included, are listings from Kevin's new book on misplaced dates, as well as those of Doug Hill's series of books on the late dates. Other books such as Breen's *Encyclopedia* and *The Cherrypickers' Guide* by Bill Fivaz and J.T. Stanton are also referenced. While the master listing will employ the use of the "S" numbers, each of us (and others) continue in independent research and deserve equal recognition. This listing is truly a composite reference and should continue as such.

I asked Rick, who is now our Club's Attributer, to provide us with a status report on the first printing of the attribution file. He informed us that he expects to have it completed and available by the end of the year. Rick then gave a brief presentation of his proposed date position methodology that he intends to use to identify and differentiate similar dies.

At the close of the meeting, I mentioned that we had copies of all reference books written to date and sample copies of the *Ledger* at the front table for those who wished to glance at them. I mentioned that we had our Club's free brochure/application as well. Several non-members expressed a sincere interest in joining our Club.

After the meeting, a few of us gathered to discuss Kevin's new book on misplaced dates. Steve Shaw presented the second reported 1873 Open 3 with a misplaced 3 in the bust, which was a last minute addition to Kevin's book (first discovered by Steve McIntyre). This is a MOST interesting variety. I'll be writing an article about this in a later issue. With that we adjourned.

Until the next issue...

WANTED TO BUY: VARIETIES

I am a serious collector of varieties – primarily repunched dates, overdates, and doubled dies. I prefer VF or better (Full LIBERTY). Paying 5 to 50% over CDN Bid, depending upon condition and type of variety. Write first!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** ANA'S HEATH LITERARY AWARD ***

Chris Pilliod, a Charter member of our Club and current Vice President, was awarded First Place in the American Numismatic Association's annual Heath Literary Award competition. The award was presented to Chris as the ANA's 106th Anniversary Convention in New York City for his article, "What Error Coins Can Teach Us About Die Settings," which appeared in the April 1996 issue of *The Numismatist*. A copy of the letter from the ANA is reproduced on page 19 in this issue. Congratulations Chris.

*** JIM JOHNSON LITERARY AWARD ***

Rick Snow, Co-Founder and Past President of our club, was awarded the Fly-In Club's annual Jim Johnson Literary Award for "Best Article of 1996." A plaque honoring Rick was presented at the Fly-In Club's 7th annual meeting (held during the ANA's annual convention) for his article, "1877 - The Year In Depth," which appeared in the Fall 1996 issue of *Longacre's Ledger*. Congratulations Rick.

*** CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP DUES ***

After nearly a year of discussions with other members, or through correspondence, and upon a thorough review of our financial status, it has become necessary to increase our membership dues. Effective with renewals beginning January 1, 1998 membership dues will be as follows:

Junior Member (under age 18)	\$ 10 per year
Regular Member	20 per year
Life Member (after one year)	400

*** JOURNAL FORMAT CHANGE ***

Beginning sometime in 1998, *Longacre's Ledger* will have a new format. The size of the journal will be increased to an 8 1/2" x 11" format. This change will permit the Editor greater flexibility to print more photos, provide for easier readability of the articles, and increase available space for advertising (among some of the benefits of this format).

*** CONTRIBUTION FILE TO BE AVAILABLE ***

Rick Snow is completing the final revisions to the Club's attribution file, with the assistance of selected members, including Chris Pilliod, Larry R. Steve and others. The printing firm of J. T. Stanton has been selected to publish the listing, and it is expected to be available for purchase during the F.U.N. Convention in January 1998. The size will be 8 1/2" x 11", spiral bound and estimated to be 88 pages in length. The price is to be \$15.95, with a percentage of all proceeds to benefit the Fly-In Club.

*** MAIL BID OFFERING ***

As part of our continuing effort to provide greater service to our members, we are modifying our advertising policy, *on a trial basis*, to permit Mail Bid advertising. Effective immediately until further notice, Mail Bid offerings are accepted, subject to approval, for advertising in *Longacre's Ledger*. Any such offering shall be restricted to Flying Eagle and Indian cents. All other provisions of our Advertising Policy remain in effect.

*** NEW JERSEY STATE REPRESENTATIVE ***

Peter Mosiondz, Jr. of New Jersey has volunteered to represent the Fly-In Club in his home state. We welcome him on board.

*** JOURNAL DEADLINES ***

Articles, advertisements, and mail bids to be included in the Jan-Mar 1998 Journal must be submitted to the Editor, Deborah Wiles, by December 1, 1997. (See address at front of this Journal.) When including photos, please provide actual photo prints. Although printed copy is welcome, submissions provided in Microsoft Word on a 3.5" disk will be greatly appreciated.

INDIAN HEAD HEARTBREAK by Ed Morris

The following article was provided to the Journal by Bob Merchant of Cocoa, Florida. It was first published in the September 1993 issue of Western & Eastern Treasures.

Most detectorists have, at one time or another, ruined the numismatic value of one or more coins. Almost always this came about because of the careless digging habits, such as cutting forcefully with a big-bladed knife instead of gently using a probe.

Fortunately, this generally happens with a coin of little value, anyhow. But for one member of a California pioneer family - and myself - the purposeful damaging of a horde of Indian Head cents by a Wickenden family member and others caused us to be deprived of a potentially large fortune.

Winston Wickenden, the 87-year-old grandson of California pioneer settler Frederick Wickenden, fervently wishes that his grandfather and other area ranchers had used something other than 1871 Indian Head cents to tally the number of sheep shorn during the 1860s and '70s.

These sheep-clipping sessions took place on Frederick's Rancho Tinaquaic, near Santa Maria, California and north into San Luis Obispo county. Each time a field hand finished shearing a sheep, he was given an Indian Head cent by the foreman. At the close of each day's shearing, the boss would count the number of cents each worker had accumulated, and they would be paid a predetermined price for the return of each one - for example, 20 cents turned in, \$20 paid to the worker.

This worked fine until some of the shearers tried to boost their wages by bringing their own pennies to the shearing scene and adding them to those given to them by the foreman.

This is where marred coins come into the story. Recently, Winston asked me if I would examine some Indian Head cents to determine if they had any numismatic value.

"There's a bunch of them. I found them while going through an old oak desk at the ranch house and have no idea what they are worth," he said.

It wasn't until I got home that I noticed some of the coins were marred. Closer examination revealed that the marks on the coins were really initials stamped on one or both sides, put there either with a chisel or some type of metal marker. Most read

(Continued on page 29)

SOMETHING NEW! 1888/887 S-2 in Copper-Nickel

by Richard Snow, Fly-In #1 LM, Club Attributer

This summer I had the pleasure of being a co-instructor, with my good friend Virg Marshall III, of the Flying Eagle, Indian, and Lincoln Cent course at the ANA's annual Summer Conference. This is one of the highlights of the year for me and possibly for all those in attendance. Virg and I split the instruction time between us, with my section on Flying Eagle and Indian Cents being covered the first three days of the conference. When Virg took over, I was free to sit in on some of the other courses. J.P. Martin and Bob Campbell were gracious enough to let me sit in on their counterfeit detection course on the day that they were showing the electron microscope. Colorado College's Professor of Biology, Ron Hathaway, was giving the demonstration.

As luck would have it, the coin being tested was an 1888 Indian Cent purported to be struck in Copper-Nickel. The coin was given an X-ray diffraction analysis, which would give clear indications of the chances of the coin's genuineness. If the coin was nickel-plated, the analysis would probably detect pure nickel, since electrolytic plating cannot lay down an alloy. The test showed an alloy of 75% copper and 25% Nickel - the same alloy as the 3 cent nickel. Was this a cent struck on a 3 cent nickel planchet? When the test was finished I asked to see the coin to determine if that was in fact what they were dealing with.

The coin was a nice MS piece, totally original looking with a good strike and full rims, not at all like a cent struck on a 3 cent nickel blank. Then looking closer, I made an astounding discovery. This coin is an 1888/7 S-2! This attribution had previously gone unnoticed by all including the submitter. Here was a rare find indeed! Unfortunately, I could not get a photograph of the coin.

1871/1 (sw)

Here is a somewhat interesting repunched date. This is the best repunched date discovered for this year. This variety was submitted by Allen Murphy and shows repunching at the base of the 1 to the southwest. I suspect that my enthusiasm for this coin is based more on it being a date which has produced very few interesting varieties than for the strength of the repunching.



The only other repunched date listed for 1871 is the S1 - 1871/1871 (s), which has now been found to be a defective digit punch. If the digit punch shows doubling, then every die sunk with that digit punch would show the same doubling. This is the case with the S1, with three different dies identified so far. These are being labeled S1a, S1b, and S1c. While still highly collectable, the fact that at least three dies struck the variety make the chances of high rarity kind of remote.

Date Position Lines

I have observed on a few different coins a raised horizontal die line that usually stretches from a point near the lowest corner of the U in UNITED (the top left corner of the digit) to a point near the lowest corner of the final A in AMERICA (the top of the digit). The coin pictured is an 1864 With L. I've seen them on many other dates as well. It seems that the die maker would score a line from these two letters to make a horizontal guide to position the date. I would think that these date position lines were not intended to show up so clearly on the finished die. These are presently not being attributed as separate varieties on their own, but if collector enthusiasm is evident, they may be at a later point in time.



DIE VARIETIES OF LATE DATE INDIAN CENTS: THE NEXT STEP

by Douglas W. Hill

Learn to attribute die marriages and to estimate their rarity. Covers the years 1886 Type 2 through 1889. The first of 7 books from 1886 - 1908S.

Plastic comb binding allows for the entry of later editions. There are rare but little known late date varieties still out there. This book will help you find them.

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Coming April, 1998—Second Book Covering 1890, 1892, 1894, & 1908-S

LATE DATE INDIAN CENT VARIETIES

by Douglas W. Hill,
Fly-In Club Life Member

I realize that some collectors are hesitant to attribute die marriages using the lapping line and date position tools. They often feel that lapping lines are too small to be seen and that differences in date position are too slight to make any difference. Below are my thoughts about this subject.

1. Many collectors, myself included, have looked upon lapping lines and date position at first in a negative light. The key is to understand that the real goal is the search for rarity and that lapping lines and date position are often the only means to this end.
2. With a little practice, lapping lines and date position become much easier to use. But practice you must.
3. Some dies show little or no evidence of lapping. No problem. We won't get them all, but we should be able to identify most of them.
4. Many rare die marriages are just waiting to be found. Approximately 95% of the die marriages for any given date have been totally ignored.
5. Sure, demand for the new die marriage rarities is weak right now. But, if you wait a few years until demand begins to pick up, many of the rarities will be found by others. By the way, if you have any rarities for sale, I will pay a premium now. In particular, look for the crumbling varieties 1886 Type 2 H-7, 1889 H-39, and 1889 H-40.
6. Eventually, those who look for the new rarities will be rewarded. Look at the large premiums paid for rare late date large cents whose dies were made largely in the same way as the Indian cents.
7. Most collectors want to collect a popular series and have a chance at cherry-picking all of the rarities in that series. I hope to make that possible for the late date Indian cents.

Next time—another crumbling variety!

HOW MANY ARE THERE, ANYWAY?

by Jerry Wysong

As I write this article, we have just set a new record for the coldest recorded temperature (43 degrees F) for a September 4 for the Dayton area. I actually got out the long sleeved shirts; the earliest I can ever remember doing so. It has felt like fall around here for a couple of weeks now; so I am wondering what the winter is going to be like this year. Scares me, but then maybe you believe in the current *El Nino* effect predictions. In the meantime, **Where have all the Indian Head cents gone?**

I am generally always on the hunt for nice Indian cents in the VF to AU range; particularly in the late 1860s and early 1870s. I see very few these days and buy even fewer because of problems and/or optimistic grading. Have your experiences been similar the past couple of years? I'd like to think I'm not alone in what I am seeing these days. I didn't hear of any major *finds* resulting from any of the major shows so far this year; **however . . .**

A tip 'o the bow and arrow goes to Don Rhodes of Knoxville for his super find—an 1897 1-in-neck that grades (ANACS) MS-64 RB. Don showed me the coin in the raw at the FUN Show last January; and it is a gorgeous coin, being more red than brown. Don's *find* is being reported now only because he wanted to have it graded first. Good going, Don, and keep up the good hunt. As a side note, I regularly see Don at coin shows in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, and Georgia. Don is a good hunter with a good eye; along with his regular traveling companions—Dave, Bob, and P.J.

Please observe the addition to the Census—the 1858/7 T-2. We have six reported to date, but I'm sure there are more out there; so write and share the information with us and update the Census. You can write me at: Jerry Wysong, P.O. Box 292561, Dayton, Ohio 45429. My thanks to all of you hunters out there who have contributed Census information in the past and who make this article possible.

The *finds* reported to me for the period of June 10 through August 31, 1997 are listed below:

DOUBLED DIES

1. 1909 DDO FND-001; AU; W. O. Walker
2. 1909 DDO FND-001; MS-62; W. O. Walker
3. 1873 S-2; PCGS-64 RB; EERC
4. 1873 S-2; NGC-62 RD; EERC
5. 1909 DDO FND-001; MS-60; W. O. Walker

REPUNCHED DATES

1. 1869/18 S-1; ANACS EF-40; Allan Murphy
2. 1858/7 Die #2 S-7; MS-64; Mark McWherter
3. 1858/7 Die #2 S-7; ANACS-62; Larry Steve
4. 1858/7 Die #2 S-7; PCI-40; Jon Minor
5. 1858/7 Die #2 S-7; EF-40 (CInd); EERC
6. 1858/7 Die #2 S-7; EF-40; EERC
7. 1858/7 Die #2 S-7; Fine-12; Milan Block
8. 1858/7 EDS S-1; PCGS-62; EERC
9. 1858/7 EDS S-1; PCGS-62; EERC
10. 1894/4 S-1; VF; Don Rhodes
11. 1857/57 S-11; EF; W. O. Walker
12. 1865 Fancy S-1; VF-20; W. O. Walker

CLASHED DIES

1. 1857 50c Obv. S-9; EF-40; Jerry Wysong
2. 1857 50c Obv. S-9; Fine; Don Rhodes
3. 1857 50c Obv. S-9; Good; Don Rhodes
4. 1857 \$20 Obv. S-7; ANACS VF-20; W. O. Walker

MISPLACED DATES

1. 1897 1-in-Neck S-1; ANACS MS-64 RB; Don Rhodes
2. 1897 1-in-Neck S-1; Good; Don Rhodes
3. 1888 S-8; EF; W. O. Walker

CORRECTIONS/UPDATES

1. 1872 S-1; NGC-66 RB; Previously reported by Glen Marhefka, has been reattributed as an S-12. The Census for the 1872 S-1 has been adjusted accordingly.
2. 1873 S-1 upgraded from ANACS -64 to NGC MS-64 RB (Rick Snow); no change in overall Census.

DOUBLED DIE TABLE

****MINT STATE****												
		<u>G/VG</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>60/62</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1864 DDO BZ		0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
1865 1-R-IV	S-2	5	0	4	1	2	3	2	1	0	0	18
1866 1-O-V	S-1	1	5	9	7	3	2	2	3	1	0	33
1868 1-O-III	S-1	0	0	2	6	5	1	4	4	0	0	22
1870 1-O-IV (3)	S-1	0	0	2	11	7	7	4	7	1	0	39
1870 2-O-IV	S-3	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	4
1870 3-O-IV	S-5	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
1873 1-O-III	S-1	30	16	16	14	19	6	3	1	2	0	107
1873 2-O-III	S-2	0	1	4	9	11	8	6	4	3	0	46
1874 DDO; EDS	S-1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	5
1880 1-O-IV	S-1	0	0	2	1	2	1	4	2	2	0	14
1887 1-O-V	S-1	23	10	4	7	3	0	2	1	0	0	50
1889 1-R-III	S-1	2	1	3	4	4	2	2	2	1	0	21
1890 1-O-II (3)	S-1	1	2	1	2	4	1	2	2	2	0	17
1891 1-O-IV	S-1	7	2	4	4	5	2	1	2	1	0	28
1909 DDO FND-001		0	0	0	0	3	4	4	3	3	0	17

MISPLACED DATE TABLE

****MINT STATE****												
		<u>G/VG</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>60/62</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1870 0 in Dent.	S-5	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
1870 FND-004		0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	4
1883 1 in Neck	S-1	3	2	2	2	2	0	0	3	1	1	16
1884 4 in Dent.	S-1	1	1	1	3	2	1	0	1	1	0	11
1888/7	S-2	1	1	1	0	5	2	1	0	0	0	11
1888 8 in Dent.	S-8	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
1891 FND-003		0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
1894 94 in Dent.	S-2	5	1	0	2	2	1	0	3	0	0	14
1897 1 in Neck	S-1	29	15	7	12	6	2	4	2	0	0	77
1902 0 in Dent.	S-1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2

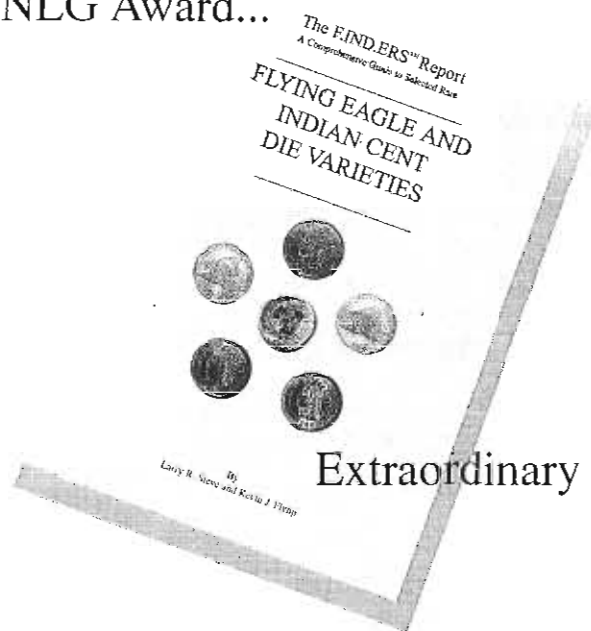
REPUNCHED DATE TABLE

****MINT STATE****												
		<u>G/VG</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>60/62</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1857/57	S-11	0	0	2	3	1	4	1	0	0	0	11
1858/57 EDS	S-1	2	1	12	10	12	5	2	5	0	0	49
1858/7 Type 2	S-7	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	6
1859/59	S-1	6	1	1	5	5	1	0	1	0	0	20
1865/4 Fancy	S-1	3	0	1	2	4	0	1	1	0	0	12
1865/4 Plain	S-1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	5	1	0	10
1866/1	S-3	3	2	3	1	1	3	2	2	1	0	18
1867/67	S-1	30	8	13	9	4	7	6	14	5	0	96
1869/18	S-1	4	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
1872/182	S-1	1	1	3	2	0	2	1	4	1	0	15
1888/7 die #1	S-1	5	1	4	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	15
1891/1891	S-3	10	3	7	4	5	2	6	6	0	0	43
1894/94	S-1	78	10	14	9	4	3	6	6	3	1	134
1895/895	S-1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4

CLASHED DIE TABLE

****MINT STATE****												
		<u>G/VG</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>60/62</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1857 \$20 Obv.	S-7	8	2	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	20
1857 25c Rev.	S-8	1	1	3	3	2	3	1	1	0	0	15
1857 50c Obv.	S-9	10	5	7	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	31

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CHRIS PILLIOD WINS THE ANA HEATH AWARD

The letter shown below was sent from Barbara Gregory, Editor of *The Numismatist*, to Chris Pilliod, Fly-In Club Vice President, announcing that Chris won First Place in the ANA's annual Heath Literary Award competition. Chris received the award at the ANA's 106th Anniversary Convention in New York City in August.



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July 1, 1997

Chris Pilliod
P.O. Box 13891
Reading, PA 19612-3891

Dear Chris:

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that your article, "What Error Coins Can Teach Us About Die Settings," which appeared in the April 1996 issue of *The Numismatist*, has been selected by a panel of judges to receive First Place in the ANA's annual Heath Literary Award competition.

Official presentation of the award (a silver medal, certificate and \$250) will be made during the ANA's 106th Anniversary Convention in New York City at the Awards Presentation, Saturday, August 2, at 1 p.m. in the Soho Complex of the Marriott Marquis Hotel. If you cannot be present for the ceremony, you may name someone to accept the award for you, or your award can be mailed to you following the close of the convention. Please advise us of your intentions.

Congratulations! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

Barbara Gregory
Barbara Gregory
Editor/Publisher
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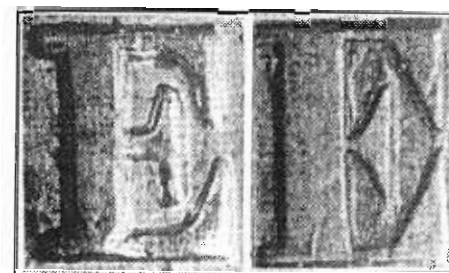
SUBTITLE: 1901 Cent with an 1870 Style Reverse?

by Larry Steve
Fly-In Club Life Member

In the last two issues we explored some of the basic differences found on the reverses for Indian cents dated 1870. One distinctive characteristic that differentiates the dies from one another is the shape of the center serif of "E" of ONE and CENT. On some 1870 cents, both center serifs are T-shaped, and on others they are trumpet-shaped (referred to as Type 1 and Type 3 respectively). Still other 1870 cents display characteristics of both styles: the E of ONE being T-shaped with the E of CENT being trumpet-shaped (referred to as Type 2).

It is important to note that these changes first occurred in 1870. Equally important, the Type 2 reverses have only been found on 1870 dated cents. The Type 1 reverses were discontinued and phased out after 1870, only reappearing occasionally on a single reported reverse die for the years 1872, 1873, and 1877, thus far. All other reverse dies after 1870 were of the Type 3 style letter E (i.e., trumpet-shaped center serifs).

Having intensely studied die varieties for this series over the past ten years, I don't recall ever seeing a reverse die after 1877 that displayed anything but trumpet-shaped Es. Yet, there was something nagging me at the back of my mind that perhaps I missed something. I couldn't put my finger on it until I looked through my research files and came across an article written in 1989. There, in "Collectors' Clearinghouse," a feature column of *Coin World*, was a photo of the E of ONE from the reverse of a 1901 Indian cent on which the center serif was T-shaped! The article appeared in the February 1, 1989 issue, and reprinted below are the photos and caption presented.



E of ONE on the reverse of the 1901 Indian Head cent, left, and 1902 Indian Head cent next to it show a difference in the shape of the bar in the center.

(Reprinted courtesy *Coin World*.)

It really wasn't until a few months ago, when I began writing my articles on the 1870 reverse dies, that this obscure piece of information resurfaced. I have since been searching for a 1901 Indian cent with the reverse depicted, but to no avail. Many questions arise. What is the shape of the center serif of the E of CENT? Are the corners of the Ns weak or strong? Is it a doubled die, or perhaps a repunched letter variety? And most significantly: Was this from a die or inscription punch last used in 1870? I would be most interested in trying to determine answers to these questions. Should anyone find such a coin, please contact me: Larry R. Steve, P.O. Box 291, Jarrettsville, MD 21084, Tel. (410) 557-8508.

Bibliography:

Van Allen, Marilyn. "Collectors' Clearinghouse." *Coin World*, February 1, 1989.

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CAUSES OF MISPLACED DATES by Kevin Flynn

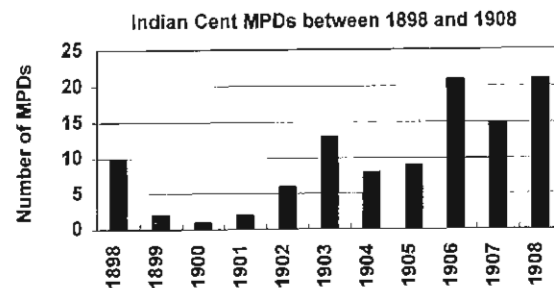
In the Apr-Jun and Jul-Sep 1997 Issues of the Journal, Marvin Erickson presented his theory on the cause of misplaced dates. This theory involved the striking of the dies with a date punch to test the hardness of the steel after the dies have been annealed between hubbings. In my opinion, the evidence on the coins, logic, common sense, and methodology used for centuries for testing the hardness of steel points against this theory. In my upcoming MPD book, I present eight pages of evidence which points against this theory. The following paragraphs are a summation of this evidence. Also, I include an article in the MPD book from Craig Sholley; Craig is one of the leading experts on early minting practices and metallurgy.

First, the annealers were trained blacksmiths who had years of experience forging steel. There is no evidence that they ever would have used the date punch method for testing the hardness of the die steel. Logic says one must ask why the annealer would deface the front of the die to test its hardness when the normal method is to use a file on the side of the die. If the annealer tested the hardness of the obverse die between hubbings, should he have not tested the reverse dies with a mintmark or date punch? For a given date and denomination, why are the digits not in a consistent place? With some of the digits in the denticles being barely visible, I hope the annealer had a high-powered instrument to view them; some are only visible with a microscope at 30 power. Why are there MPDs on proof dies? These are supposed to represent the best coins for a given denomination. Why would the annealer intentionally deface the die? If the surface of the die was too hard, would not the date punch be damaged? Why are there no MPDs that are upside down or sideways? If the annealer was just worried about the die's hardness, why would he care about the orientation of the date punch?

Why are there many examples of digits which extend from the denticles or devices into the field? If the annealer had knowledge that digits in the main devices would be removed from rehubbing, he must have also known that those digits which extend into the field would not have been removed easily from rehubbing. Why would the annealer test the hardness of the die under any circumstance in the field of the die?

If the annealer was testing the hardness of the steel, wouldn't he use the smallest date punch to make the smallest impression into the die? A different four-digit date punch existed for each denomination. Shouldn't the die sinker have used the date punch for the three-cent piece dies for Liberty Seated Half Dime dies? All of the 400 MPDs known were struck with the same date punch as used for that denomination. As the digits of every MPD are the same as those of the normal digits for that date, are we to believe that the annealer went into the engraver's or coiner's room and selected the proper date punch for those dies? Mr. Erickson says in his article that the 1 in the neck of the 1897 Indian cent (FND-001, S-1) is the 1 from a different denomination. In my opinion, this 1 in the neck is positively the left base of the 1 from the 1 cent denomination. I shot a photo of a high grade variety at 30 power using a microscope. The photo contained both the 1 in the neck and date. I scanned this photo into my computer; then, using Adobe PhotoShop, I overlapped the base of the 1 in the date on top of the 1 in the neck at 200 power. They were an exact match. Even the angle matched the 1 in the date. I welcome anyone to share their opinion on this.

For a given denomination, why do MPDs happen in a great number in one year, and none or only a few in another? If this were a true method for testing the die steel, then this method would be constant over many years. The following chart gives the number of Indian Cent MPDs between 1898 and 1908 for each year. It is obvious that between 1891 and 1901 very few MPDs have been found. This is also true for the Barber series for these years.



How did the person making the working hubs from the master die determine the hardness of the steel in the working hub after it was annealed and before it was put in the hubbing press? If a date punch was used, we should see that most dies for a given year and denomination exhibit the same digits in the denticles. Working hubs were hubbed from the master die and annealed in the same manner as the working die from the working hub.

All evidence seems to point against the hardness test theory. I believe that misplaced dates are the result of inexperience and misjudgment; I will present evidence of such in a future article. One of the goals of the MPD book is to present and analyze every possible theory on the cause of MPDs. About 100 pages in the beginning of the book are dedicated to this purpose. I applaud Mr. Erickson on presenting his theory, as we need to evaluate all options.

One thing collectors should remember is that when you see a picture at 60 power and say to yourself, "How could they have made this mistake?" think of this: it only takes 1/10 of an inch offset from the date to the denticles.

Research on Misplaced Dates by Craig Sholley

First, let me say that I do believe a jig of some kind was used to hold and position the punches - letter, star, or digit. The punching is simply too consistent to have been done freehand; letters, stars, and digits are all on the same baseline (that is, they do not vary much vertically) and they do not tilt right or left appreciably. As I have done this type of work, I find that punching this many figures by hand without a significant variance is inconceivable. And, as I have mentioned previously, this is supported by a record in the Mint records which mentions the purchase of a punching machine for the engraver.

Having said that, I must mention that I do not believe the jig used on the Seated coinage was the type that Del Romines described. In reviewing Del's comments, he mentions receiving the jig in 1949. Doing some simple math, the earliest the jig could have been used is the late 1880s, unless one cares to consider that the maker was in his very early teens or younger.

This, however, does pose an interesting explanation of why there are so few MPDs in the Barber series. The jig may have been developed for use on this series. The lack of a cent slot in the jig would also explain the continuing MPDs in that series. But this, of course, is nothing more than speculation.

So what did this jig look like? There are no records, so I can only speculate that this jig was much like the ones I used in industry - a base with some type of adjustable holding mechanism which had an arm to hold the punch over the work. In using these jigs, I can tell you that we did produce mispunching very much like those we see on coins. If the jig were misadjusted or not tightened properly, you could get some spectacular errors and we would either scrap the item or, if too costly, lap out the punching and star over. As most errors were merely slight repunchings, we let them go.

I generally conclude that the great majority of MPDs result from the misadjustment or misuse of the punching jig. Others are likely "dropped punches" or a mistake resulting from the attempt to deepen or finish a digit that did not punch quite right. I also find Ron Landis' speculation about seating the punch quite interesting.

On the subject of date punches, I do not necessarily agree that the punches were four digit "gang" punches after a certain date. This is called into question by many RPDs and MPDs in which one or more digits are not on the same baseline as the others; see the 1844-O "Blundered Date" half dollar in which the 18 is higher than the 44 and the last 4 is tilted slightly on the MPD portion, also the 1846 "Over Horizontal 6" half, and many of the LH cent dies in which the final one or two digits were repunched. These and others would indicate that at times single, double, triple, and quadruple punches were used.

As to the hardness testing theory, I find this without any merit. The engravers knew the dies were annealed so there would be no need for a test. And, as I've said before, if they wanted to test, they could test the side or the base of the die.

When considering this theory, one should realize that the annealing process for straight 1% carbon steel (the type the Mint was using at this time) is quite simple; merely heat it to around 1500-1600 degrees Fahrenheit. And unlike some researchers have implied, the method of determining temperature by color is quite accurate in this situation. In fact, this method is still in use today.

As to Mr. Erickson's theory in particular, I cannot agree with what he proposes due to technical errors in his theory which, in my opinion, demonstrate a misunderstanding of the Mint practices and metallurgy.

In his presentation, Mr. Erickson states that the die steel was first machined to proper shape and exact length, which was then turned and filed to a point. In fact, the Mint records detail just the opposite. A section was cut from a bar and forged into a rough die body, which was then turned on a lathe to a conical point; they were not filed and the body was not the finished length and size. The finish machining was done after all hubbing and finishing operations were completed. (The lines which Mr. Erickson mentions are machining lines from the reducing lathe left on the master hub and transferred, via hubbing, to the working die. This is well documented in the numismatic record.)

Likewise, dies from the Mint which are extant in various museums show that the dies, even in the Mint's earliest days, were finely machined. There would have been no need to dress them with a file; in fact, file lines would have been far more coarse than the machining lines these dies exhibit.

On the hardening process, Mr. Erickson states that the dies were probably hardened in an oil bath. The Mint records and other historical records are very specific on this point; the Mint was using water to harden the dies. At one point this was done by spray, but later spray was abandoned in favor of immersion. The oil-hardening steels were not developed until much later.

Mr. Erickson's statement concerning the number of hubbings is directly contradicted by Mint records which would indicate that cent dies received only two hubbings (perhaps by a light finishing blow) to complete the impression. This also tends to be supported by the characteristics of doubled dies in which both impressions are generally of the same depth.

Mr. Erickson's proposal of shrinkage via pressure is not supported by metal flow physics. In order to remove an impression in this manner, it would be necessary to impress the hub very nearly to the depth of the punch mark to be removed. Likewise, his example of the 1894/94 (FND-004) Indian Head cent with the remains of a 94 north and right of the date is inconsistent with metal flow. Metal will flow outward from the central point of pressure, and yet Mr. Erickson has proposed that these figures have actually flowed toward a central point of pressure. This is a physical impossibility. And then we have the evidence of doubled dies which directly contradict this "theory." If rehubbing caused the proposed effect, doubled dies should not have the characteristics they exhibit and which we, in fact, use to authenticate them - full normally shaped impression of the doubled devices.

Mr. Erickson's conclusions regarding this coin, the 1867/67 (FND-001) Indian Head Cent, and the 1891/1891 (FND-002) repunched dates are also inconsistent with what is known about the design of the punches and processes for lapping dies. The punches were designed with the letter or digit having a slight taper from the face to base, such that the face was slightly narrower than the base. This was done for mechanical reasons. First, a taper provided increased resistance to fracture. But more importantly, the taper allowed the punch to be withdrawn without distorting the punched element.

During punching, the metal will flow up and around the figure such that if the punch had no taper or a reverse taper, the figure would be solidly seated in the metal and withdrawing it would distort the punched figure. All punches, both current and those antique ones in various museums have this feature. In fact, this taper can often be seen on sharply struck coins, especially those letters and numbers with straight sides.

The "small" undertype is then not from a different punch, nor reduced by Mr. Erickson's proposed shrinkage, but rather a less heavily impressed figure. An article concerning just this aspect was published on the 1847/7 Large Cent some time ago in *Pennywise*.

Mr. Erickson's conclusions that the open tops on the 1891 cent could not be caused any way except through shrinkage ignores the evidence we have from lapped coins in which these and other elements can be seen to have been abraded away.

As to the "cause" case of the MPDs, this is probably one of those "unknowable" things. We can eliminate theories such as Romine's date jig and the shrinkage hubbing because of technical impossibilities, but short of finding a record indicating how they happened, we'll likely never know for sure.

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1	1857 FS#005, Snow 8. Rev clashed with 25c. obv clnd, rev original AU	150
2	1857 DDO FS#002. Snow 4,F 15. strong doubling on beak,eye,legend	20
3	1857 2 large cuds rev. One below each ribbon end. G-VG. RARE	135
4	1857 Small rim clip at 9K. Problem free VF 20	25
5	1857 Obv Clashed with Seated Half die. Nice coin, clashing shows well. VG+	35
6	1858/7 FS#006.1 ANACS45. Nice,CP lists at \$1350.	500
7	1858 SM. Crack and denticle eud at leaves at left. Minor unlisted DDR best seen at trumpet of E in ONE. Another full cud touches maple leaf at right. Nice EF45	150
8	1858 SM Cud over AME. Listed as FEC-1858-4. Nice problem free VG	35
9	1858 SM Heavy rim crumbling rev. Problem free VG	15
10	1859 Love Token "Sarah J. Mead" within ribbon, flowers around. Nicely done. VG	45
11	1863 Small ragged clip K1. Problem free VG	25
12	1864-L RPD and minor rotated rev. Problem free VG.	35
13	1865 20% O/C at 2K. Nice problem free Good+.	115
14	1865 20% O/C at K1. Granular and probably cleaned.	95
15	1866 Love Token. "JWL" encircled by scallops around periphery. Beautiful EF	50
16	1874 7% O/C at K7. Tough date for O/Cs. Dark XF. Light granularity.	115
17	1880 "Earring" variety. Die break drips down below ear. Prob free VF	10
18	1883 Snow 1. MPD 1 protrudes from bust tip. NGC 63 Brown	175
19	1887 Unlisted First 8/8 south. Strong, visible half way down upper loop. Dipped Unc	45
20	1889 Snow 1. Strong DDR. Choice coin and rare 63RB	465
21	1890 8% O/C at K1. Good. A few small contemporary digs rev.	35
22	1890 8% O/C at K4. Damaged Good. 4 numeral sized digs obv, 3 rev. Not horrible	5
23	1890 Uncentered Broadstrike. Looks 5% OC at K6. Problem free VG	40
24	1891 Snow 2. Strong DDR. Tough variety. Nice XF40	65
25	1891 Snow 3. Nice RPD. Underlying mint luster AU 50	45
26	1894 RPD Snow 1 Lite brown, darker highlights. Lite corrosion in spots on rev. EF	140
27	1895?, or 1905 15%O/C at K6. Tops of digits show. Prob free VF	95
28	1895 Small rim clip at K6. Choice VF	20
29	1895 RPD Snow 1 Beautiful problem free coin. Choice color and surfaces. XF	35
30	1896 5% O/C at K6. Problem free XF	55
31	1897 Snow 1. FS#011.5 MPD, 1 in Neck. ANACS AU 50. Problem free.	150
32	1902 8% O/C at K8 plus curved clip at K4. Tough double error. Problem free Fine	55
33	1907 Uncentered broadstrike. Thin Scratches obv. VG8	20
34	1907 Snow 1. MPD & RPD. Top of zero in denticles. Choice XF and problem free.	15
35	1908 5% O/C at K5. Problem free, nice coin. VG	20
36	1908 Small straight clip at K1. VF20	15
37	1908 Unlisted MPD. not in FND,FS,Snow. Top of 8 in denticles below 8. NGC65RB	125
38	Group of 4 small curved rim clips All Good to VG. 1863, 1905, 1906, 1907	25
39	1864 US 2-Cent FS# 001.8 Reverse clashed with Obverse of Indian Cent Die. The newest member of the cross-denomination clashes. This coin a real nice chocolate brown with clear clashing. ANACS MS 61 BRN	475

Frank Leone

P.O. Box 564393, College Point, NY 11356-4393

Indian Head Heartbreak (continued from page 8)

F.W., for Frederick Wickenden. As I further examined and counted the coins, it became obvious that all of them had the same type of disfigurement.

It was only later that Winston told me that sheep ranchers chiseled or pounded their initials onto the Indian Head cents and then used the marked coins to tally the number of sheep sheared. This effectively ended the practice of the shearers bringing their own cents to work and adding them to the tally at the end of the day.

Surprisingly - and something that Winston can't explain - all 465 coins were date 1871. How, where, and why Frederick Wickenden and other sheep owners obtained that many 1 cent coins, all with the same date, remains a minor mystery.

Close examination disclosed that the majority of the coins, if undamaged, would have graded from Good to Very Good. Based on an average numismatic value of \$32 (Red Book), the coins would have been worth about \$14,000.

Both Winston and I were, of course, disappointed. He had offered me half of their numismatic value for checking out their condition and value. After double checking with a local coin dealer, we knew that we had only come across a Wickenden family historical curiosity.

You'll probably never come across a situation such as this, but it should help you keep in mind that a scratched or otherwise marred coin is a worthless coin, and that the only way to avoid this is to practice good probing and recovery techniques.

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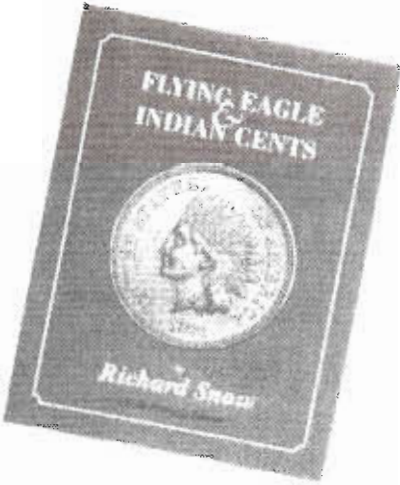
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